

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 10 and 15-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, allowable claims 2, 10 and 15 are rewritten into independent form and claims 1, 5-9, 11-14 and 18-20 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely rewrite allowed claims into independent form and cancel rejected claims. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

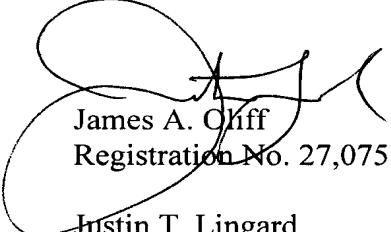
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4, 10 and 15-17 recite allowable subject matter. Because allowable claims 2, 10 and 15 are rewritten into independent form and because all rejected claims are canceled, all pending claims are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5-9, 11-14 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Norimatsu, U.S. Patent No. 6,415,053, in view of Jayant et al. (Jayant), U.S. Patent No. 7,155,067. The rejection of canceled claims 1, 5-9, 11-14 and 18-20 is moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JTL/emd

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